

Derung language

Dulong (simplified Chinese: 独龙语; traditional Chinese: 獨龍語; pinyin: Dúlóng) or **Drung**, **Derung**, **Rawang**, or **Trung**, is a Tibeto-Burman language in China. Dulong is closely related to the **Rawang** language of Myanmar (Burma).^[2] Although almost all ethnic **Derung people** speak the language to some degree, most are multilingual, also speaking Burmese, Lisu, and Mandarin Chinese^[3] except for a few very elderly people^[4]

Dulong is also called: Taron, Kiu, Qui, Kiutze, Qiuzi, Kiupa, Kiao, Metu, Melam, Tamalu, Tukiumu, Qiu, Nung, Nu-tzü.^[5]

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Drung
Dulong, Derung, Qiuzu
Tvrung kvt
Pronunciation [təɻtunɻ kətɻ]
Native to China
Region Yunnan, Tibet
Ethnicity Derung people and part of ethnic Anung of Nu people
Native speakers 14,000 (2000)[1] (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/duu)
Language family Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nungish ▪ Drung
Dialects Dulong River Nu River
Writing system Latin script
Language codes
ISO 639-3 duu
Glottolog drun1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/drunk1238) Drung ^[1]

Classification

Dulong belongs to the Nungish language family of the Central Tibeto-Burman branch of the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family.^[3] The other two languages in the same family are Anong and Rawang.

History

Dulong/Rawang is a Tibeto-Burman language cluster spoken on both sides of the China/Myanmar (Burma) border just south and east of Tibet. Within Myanmar, the people who speak the Dulong language (possibly up to 100,000 people) live in northern Kachin State, particularly along the Mae Hka ('Nmai Hka) and Mali Hka (Mali Hka) River valleys. In the past, they had been called 'Hkanung' or 'Nung', and have often been

considered to be a subgroup of the Kachin (Jinghpaw). Around 1950, speakers of this language in Myanmar began a movement to use the name /rəwɔŋ/ (spelled 'Rvwang' in the Rawang orthographies) to represent all of its speakers. The speakers in China, though, continue to use the name 'Dulong'.^[6]

Geographic distribution

There are 14,000 (2,000 census) people speaking in two dialects: 8,500 in Nu River dialect, and 5,500 in Dulong River dialect. The locations of Dulong are Yunnan province (Gongshan Dulong-Nu autonomous county), Xizang Autonomous Region (Gongshan Dulong-Nu autonomous county west to Chayu (Zayü) county), Gongshan county, Bingzhongluo, and Tibet (Chayu county, Chawalong district).^[3] In the past, the Dulong River was known as the Kiu (Qiu) river, and the Dulong people were known as the Kiu (Qiu), Kiutze (Qiuzi), Kiupa, or Kiao.^[2]

Dialects/varieties

Dulong has two dialects: Dulong River (Central Dulongjiang, Derung River, Northern Dulongjiang, Southern Dulongjiang), and Nu River (Nujiang Dulong). Dialects reportedly inherently intelligible (Thurgood and LaPolla 2003). Other possible dialect names are Melam, Metu, Tamalu, and Tukiumu.^[3]

Sounds/phonology

Consonants

Dulong has twenty-four initial consonants at six points of articulation, plus the consonant clusters /pr, br, mr, kr, xr, gr, pl, bl, ml, kl, gl/ in initial position; only the consonants /p, t, ɿ, k, n, m, ɻ, r, l/ occur in final position.^[2]

Vowels

Dulong has seven vowels, /i, ɛ, ə, a, ɔ, ɯ, u/, and three diphthongs, /əi, ai, ɯi/, which only appear in open syllables.^[2]

Tones

Dulong has 3 tones: high level, high falling, and low falling. In the Dulong language, tone has the role of differentiating the meaning of a few words, with about 8% words (out of about 4000) completely relying on tones to distinguish them.^[7]

Grammar

Words can be formed by prefixation, suffixation, or compounding. Word classes include nouns, defined by the ability to appear with a numeral classifier; verbs, defined by the ability to appear with negation and the person and tense marking; postpositions, which are enclitic to NPs, numerals, and classifiers. Adjectives are a subset of stative verbs for which reduplication means intensification or adverbialization rather than the perfective aspect (reduplication with nouns has a distributive meaning, 'every'). Adjectives can be used as predicates or can appear nominalized in a copula clause.^[2]

Vocabulary/Lexis

Lexical similarity: 74% with Matwang dialect of Rawang.^[3]

References

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6. LaPolla, Randy J. (2000). "Valency-changing derivations in Dulong/Rawang" (http://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/randylapolla/papers/LaPolla_2000_Valency-changing_Derivations_in_Dulong_Rawang.pdf) (PDF). *Changing Valency: Case Studies in Transitivity*, Ed. By R. M. W. Dixon & Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 282–311. doi:10.1017/CBO9780511627750.009 (<https://doi.org/10.1017%2FCBO9780511627750.009>). ISBN 9780521660396.
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External links

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- *Drung at The Endangered Language Project*. (<http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/1359?hl=en>)
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